ded rule comes into force from the date of its publication in the Gazette.

Procurement of uninfected blood

1369. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Baby gets AIDS from infected blood" appearing in the "Indian Express" of the 24th July, 1990;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure that the blood procured from the blood banks are not infected; and

(c) whether any action was taken against this particular blood bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) The Government has seen the news-item captioned 'Baby gets AIDS from infected blood' appeared in the Indian Express dated 24-07-1990.

(b) According to the report of western blot test, the baby was not found positive for HIV Antibodies.

However, to ensure safety in blood transfusion services, a zonalised system of blood testing for screening blood for HIV antibodies has been implemented in four metropolitan cities and similar arrangements are being extended to major cities, in a phased manner.

(c) Does not arise.

Fall in the production of some important drugs

1370. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the drug manufacturers have stopped production of certain life saving drugs like Dapsone, Iouprofen; etc;

(b) if so, whether this is being done in order to pressurise Government to increase the prices of such drugs; and

(c) if so, what are the details the drugs of which the production has stopped and what is Governments reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c) Government have no information in this regard.

Payment of interim relief to Bhopal gas tragedy victims

1371. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government had transferred Rs. 360/- crores to Madhya Pradesh Government to disburse the interim relief of Rs. 200/- per month to each of the victims of Bhopal gas tragedy;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the victims have not got the money so far; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Government have sanctioned disbursement of an amount of Rs. 360/- crores for making payment of interim relief to all persons residing